



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,474	01/15/2004	Hak Su Kim	K-0602	4158

34610 7590 05/04/2005

FLESHNER & KIM, LLP
P.O. BOX 221200
CHANTILLY, VA 20153

EXAMINER

PHILOGENE, HAISSA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/757,474

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Haissa Philogene

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7, 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “power source controlling the intensity of voltage applied to the driver” (claim 1) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al., Pub. No. 2001/0024361.

Suzuki discloses a method having a driver (119) and a power source (54) for driving a display panel (100, 150) comprising: sensing an intensity of external light and converting the sensed light to an electric signal via light sensor (113); converting the electric signal from an analog signal to a digital signal via A/D converter (51); comparing the value of the electric signal converted to the digital signal with a preset reference value (Lref) via comparison section (52); and controlling the driver (119) associated with lamp (105) located on a back side of the panel according to comparison results, i.e., up signal or down signal), so as to control the amount of current applied to the display panel via lamp 105 (see paragraph 0034). Note that the recited limitation "for driving an organic EL display" is "intended use" and therefore not given any patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al., Pub. No. 2001/0024361 in view of Ito, Patent No. 6,249,270.

As per claim 1, Suzuki discloses in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 a device having a driver (119) and a power source 54 for driving a display panel (100, 150) comprising: a photo

converter (113) sensing an intensity of external light and converting the sensed light to an electric signal; an A/D converter (51) converting the electric signal of the photo converter from an analog signal to a digital signal; a comparator (52) comparing the value of the electric signal converted to the digital signal with a preset reference value L_{ref} ; a controller (53) controlling at least any one of the driver (119) which includes lamp 105 (see Figs.2 and 4) and the power source (54), i.e., current supplied therefrom to the lamp, according to comparison results, i.e., up signal or down signal; the driver (119) controlling the amount of current applied to the display panel via lamp 105 located for illuminating the display panel, according to a control signal of the controller. Note that the recited limitation "for driving an organic EL display" is "intended use" and therefore not given any patentable weight. Suzuki does not disclose the power source controlling the intensity of voltage applied to the driver and the display panel according to the control signal of the controller. Ito discloses in Fig.14 a device having a driver (68) and a power source (24) for driving a display panel (4) having the power source (24) controlling the intensity of voltage ($+V_{se}$, $-V_{se}$, $+V_{so}$, $-V_{so}$ and V_{out}) applied to the driver (68) and the display panel (4) according to the control signal S_{vs} of a controller (IC 30). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the power source as taught by Ito into the Suzuki type device, because it would allow a selection of a drive voltage required for displaying display data in the display panel to minimize unnecessary power consumption in the driver, thereby realizing the lower power consumption of the whole device.

As per claims 2 and 3, Suzuki in view of Ito discloses the claimed invention substantially as explained above. Further, Suzuki discloses the photo converter being formed of a phototransistor (see page 2, paragraph [0031], lines 1-2) and the reference value L_{ref} of the comparator (54) as a reference illumination value being capable of having current and voltage values.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-7, 9 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art fails to disclose the limitations "wherein the controller controls the driver to increase the amount of current applied to the display panel when the value of the electric signal is larger than the reference value, and the controller controls the driver to decrease the amount of current applied to the display panel when the value of the electric signal is smaller than the reference value." (claims 4, 6, 9 and 10);

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yamazaki et al., Pub. No. 2002/0011978; Kim et al., Patent No. 6,667,580; Komiya, Patent No. 6,690,117; Yamada et al., Patent No. 6,215,462.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haissa Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-1827. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 A.M.-6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MinSun Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-1835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

hp

Haissa Philogene
Primary Examiner
4/2/10
2828 ✓